

Amendments To Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method, comprising:
receiving, at a financial account issuer, an initial authorization request, said initial authorization request including transaction information identifying a transaction including ~~information identifying a merchant~~ information, an account identifier corresponding to a financial account, and a transaction amount;
identifying a pre-authorization record associated with said account identifier; ~~and~~
determining that said transaction amount complies with authorization criteria including a pre-authorized amount in said pre-authorization record, wherein said pre-authorization record corresponds to a predetermined purchase transaction;
transmitting an authorization message to said merchant; ~~and~~
~~analyzing said transaction information to determine if~~ determining, based on said transaction information, that said transaction involves a partial shipment; and,
at least one of: updating said pre-authorization record or creating a new pre-authorization record in response to said transaction involving said partial shipment.
2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said ~~analyzing~~ determining further comprises determining an amount of said pre-authorized amount that is unused.
3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said ~~analyzing~~ determining further comprises calculating a percentage of said pre-authorized amount that is unused.
4. (currently amended) The method of claim 3, wherein said ~~analyzing~~ determining indicates that said transaction involves a said partial shipment if in response to said percentage that is unused is being greater than a threshold percentage associated with said account identifier.
5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said ~~analyzing~~ determining further comprises:
identifying a client associated with said account identifier;
identifying at least a first partial shipment rule specified by said client; and

applying said at least first partial shipment rule to said transaction information to determine if that said transaction involves a partial shipment.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said ~~analyzing~~ determining further comprises determining if that a maximum number of partial shipments has been exceeded.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein said ~~analyzing~~ determining further comprises comparing at least one of said amount that is unused ~~and~~ or said transaction amount to a threshold amount.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~said analyzing indicates that said transaction involves a partial shipment, the method further comprising:~~

~~causing a new pre-authorization record to be established for said account identifier, at least one of: said updated preauthorization record or said new pre-authorization record including~~ includes a new pre-authorized amount approximately equal to said pre-authorized amount minus said transaction amount identified in said initial authorization request.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim 8, ~~wherein said causing further comprises: further comprising~~ transmitting a request to a pre-authorization system in order to at least one of: modify a pre-existing authorization message or establish a new pre-authorization message to a pre-authorization system.

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 8, further comprising:

receiving a subsequent authorization request from said merchant, said subsequent authorization request including ~~information identifying a subsequent transaction~~ information including ~~at least information identifying~~ said account identifier and a subsequent transaction amount;

identifying at least one of: said updated pre-authorization record or said new pre-authorization record associated with said account identifier and determining that said subsequent transaction amount is less than said new pre-authorized amount; and

transmitting an a subsequent authorization message to said merchant.

11. (original) The method of claim 10, further comprising:
prior to said transmitting said authorization message, determining that said subsequent transaction is prior to an expiration date associated with said new pre-authorization record.
12. (currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein said subsequent authorization request further includes ~~information identifying a merchant~~ information, further comprising:
prior to said transmitting said authorization message, comparing said ~~information identifying~~ said merchant information with information in at least one of: said updated pre-authorization record or said new pre-authorization record.
13. (currently amended) The method of claim 10, further comprising:
~~analyzing said subsequent transaction information to determine if~~ determining, based on said subsequent transaction information, that said subsequent transaction involves a partial shipment.
14. (currently amended) The method of claim 8, ~~wherein said causing a new pre-authorization record to be established~~ further comprising ~~comprises~~:
identifying a start date and an expiration date for at least one of: said updated pre-authorization record or said new pre-authorization record.
15. (currently amended) The method of claim 14, wherein said start date is ~~the~~ a date of creation of at least one of: said updated pre-authorization record or said new pre-authorization record.
16. (currently amended) The method of claim 14, wherein said expiration date is the same as an expiration date of said ~~original~~ pre-authorization record associated with said account identifier.
17. (currently amended) The method of claim 14, wherein said expiration date is a period of days after ~~the~~ an expiration date of said ~~original~~ pre-authorization record associated with said account identifier.
18. (original) The method of claim 17, wherein a length of said period is specified by a client associated with said account identifier.

19. (currently amended) The method of claim 8, ~~wherein said causing a new pre-authorization record to be established further comprising comprises:~~

replicating ~~information identifying an~~ expiration date information and a merchant identifier from said ~~original~~ pre-authorization record in said new pre-authorization record.

20. (currently amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a processor;

a communication device, receiving, at a financial account issuer, an initial authorization request from a merchant; and

a memory in operative communication with the processor, the memory for storing a plurality of processing instructions enabling the processor to:

identify a transaction associated with said initial authorization request, said transaction including ~~information identifying a merchant~~ information, an account identifier corresponding to a financial account, and a transaction amount;

identify a pre-authorization record associated with said account identifier and determine that said transaction complies with criteria in said pre-authorization record, wherein said pre-authorization record corresponds to a predetermined purchase transaction;

cause an authorization message to be transmitted to said merchant; and

~~analyze said transaction information to determine, based on said transaction information, that if said transaction involves a partial shipment; and,~~

at least one of: updating said pre-authorization record or creating a new pre-authorization record in response to said transaction involving said partial shipment.

21. (currently amended) A computer readable medium encoded with processing instructions for implementing a method, performed by a computer, the method comprising:

receiving, at a financial account issuer, an initial authorization request, said initial authorization request including information identifying a transaction including ~~information identifying a merchant~~ information, an account identifier corresponding to a financial account, and a transaction amount;

identifying a pre-authorization record associated with said account identifier; and

determining that said transaction amount complies with authorization criteria in said pre-authorization record, wherein said pre-authorization record corresponds to a predetermined purchase transaction;

transmitting an authorization message to said merchant; and

~~analyzing said transaction information to determine if~~ determining, based on said transaction information, that said transaction involves a partial shipment; and,

at least one of: updating said pre-authorization record or creating a new pre-authorization record in response to said transaction involving said partial shipment.

22. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one of: updating said pre-authorization record or creating a new pre-authorization record is in response to said transaction amount being at least one of: equal to or above a predetermined transaction value.